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Spying Admitted in London Trial

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LONDON, Dec. 6 — A Canadian economics professor admitted at his espionage trial today that he secretly photographed NATO documents and passed them to the Soviet Union.

The professor, Hugh Hambleton, acknowledged under questioning that he had succumbed to Soviet pressures to provide secret material to which he had access while working as an economist with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization from 1957 to 1961.

He had said in earlier testimony that he was actually a double agent working for Canada and France and had passed only information that his superiors wanted Moscow to have.

Today he said he had selected many of the documents himself as the Russians pressed him for better data.

"Then you were spying for the Russians, there is no other answer," said the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, who is prosecuting the case.

"I suppose so," Mr. Hambleton replied in a voice that was a soft monotone compared with the prosecutor's examination, which rose and fell with changing levels of incredulity and irony.

"Once you passed one document you were in a vise, weren't you?" Sir Michael said.

Working the cuffs of his gray suit, the professor let his head bow slightly as he responded, "Yes."

At several points, he refused to give explanations for his actions. Money, he had said earlier, was not a motive.

"There was a great deal of pressure," he said.

"Even now," the prosecutor bore down, "you are still anxious to protect your Russian spy ring. I am wondering why you are so keen to protect your Russian friends? Are you pro-Russian?"

"If you want to think so, but I am not."

"Are you still K.G.B.?" Sir Michael asked, referring to the Soviet intelligence and internal-security agency.

"Rather than identify with the K.G.B., I still tend to identify with the officer class," Mr. Hambleton said, without further explanation.

The case against Mr. Hambleton has proceeded mainly on the strength of his own admissions to the British authorities, who had questioned him this summer after he had arrived on a trip. He had previously been questioned by the Canadian authorities after espionage materials were found in his possession, but no charges had been made by his own Government.